



Bristol Rural News

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bellringers

The Newsletter of Bristol Rural Branch Bellringers

No 277

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Headlines

1 All Branch ringing events cancelled until further notice

December
2020
-
January
2021

HAPPY



CHRISTMAS

Editor's Note

At last, some light at the end of the tunnel! We are approaching the end of another lockdown and we are promised some cheer for Christmas. We probably face several further months of restrictions but with three vaccines now close to authorisation, we can hope for progressive relaxation in the first few months of 2021 and, at some stage, a return to ringing.

In the meantime, have a Happy Christmas and keep safe until we can meet again!

On a more sombre note, many of you will know that two long-term members of the Branch have died recently. Their obituaries are included in this newsletter.

Chris Greef

Our Treasurer Alison reported that the Gift Aid records contained some inconsistencies. Philip Twentyman maintains the list of names, so it would be good to check with him that he has the correct list for your tower.

Chris Greef

Margaret Jennifer Rogers

17 December 1932 – 11 October 2020

Jennifer learnt to ring when she went up to Oxford University. She had previously read Dorothy Sayers 'The Nine Taylors' and was recruited by the Oxford University ringing society during their search for new recruits. In those days University practices were held in New College where she was taught to handle a bell.



Ringing had to compete with several other of her interests and after mastering bell control and plain hunt, Jennifer abandoned ringing to take up, as she described, more restful student-like pursuits.

It was some twenty five years later having married Mike and with more-or-less independent children, she visited her local tower, Abson on their open day

resulting in her returning to bellringing again. The G & B Annual report notes she became a member of Abson tower in 1978 and remained so until 1999. During this

Rural Branch AGM

We held our Branch AGM on 28th November by Zoom. There were 15 members present plus Roger Haynes, our new Association Chairman and Steve Coleman, Association Secretary. All of your Committee agreed to stand for re-election and were endorsed by the meeting as there were no other candidates. However, our Secretary Linda did warn us that she would be standing down at the next AGM, so we will need to find a successor.

We decided not to produce a 2021 Branch programme at this stage, but to wait until a return to ringing becomes apparent. As a Branch, we are due to host the Association AGM next April, but it is not at all certain whether that will live or via Zoom again.

time she was tower secretary for 15 years and also took responsibility as tower captain at Pucklechurch for two years after Edward Mould left to live in London, although there is no record that Jennifer was ever formally a member of that tower. Jennifer rang four peals, 2 at Pucklechurch in 1979 and 1981, one at North Cerney in 1979 and one at Dyrham in 1980. She was Chairman of the Northavon Branch from 1979 -1983 and also initiated the millenium 2000 revival of ringing at Abson which continues today.

Jennifer was responsible for initiating several non-ringing related events while living in Abson including the bellringers' annual ball.

In 2000 Jennifer and Mike moved to Uley where she joined the Dursley band in 2001. Sadly Mike died in 2003. She is recorded as ringing 89 quarter peals at Dursley before she felt uncomfortable standing still for such long period of time, her last quarter being in July 2015. Included in her 89 quarter peals were 6 of the standard Surprise Major Methods, not including London or Bristol but these could be included in spliced at a practice if she felt in the mood. A problem with balance would eventually cause her to have to give up ringing. Her last ring was most likely to have been at a Tuesday Simulator practice at Dursley in 2019. Even when not ringing Jennifer would enjoy the après gathering in the Old Spot afterwards.

Jennifer served as secretary to the Wotton-under-Edge Branch for 5 years from 2003. To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Branch in 2010, Jennifer masterminded, edited and published a book 'Wotton Surprise' to mark this event. It raised over £500 toward the G & B bell fund.

Jennifer's interests in bridge, bird watching, wild life and travelling were maintained until her final illness. The need for hip replacements were no deterrent to her globetrotting, even to more obscure places such as the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica.

Her final illness was quite short and eventually diagnosed as leukaemia. She died in Gloucester Royal hospital on Sunday 11 October. Her funeral was at Uley, where she had regularly worshipped, on Monday 2 November, attended by her family and by invited representatives of her many interests. Numbers were limited to 30 people but others stood outside the church, in the rain, where the Service was relayed by speakers. She was buried in Abson.

Frank Byrne

Donald William Haskins

17th December 1930 - 3rd November 2020

Don Haskins learned to ring at St Mary the Virgin, Olveston in 1939 and rang there until 1953, being Tower Captain from 1950 to 1953. After his marriage to Joan he moved to Bishopston and spent eight years ringing at St James Priory in Horsefair, Bristol. He started ringing in Almondsbury in 1963, and rang there until ill health

eventually forced his retirement from ringing in November 2010. He was Tower Captain and Steeple Keeper from 1964 to 1977 and from 1990 to 2006.



He also served as Deputy Ringing Master of the Gloucester and Bristol, Bristol Rural Branch and as a Member of the Association Management Committee. He was elected an Honorary Life Member of the G&B in 2000.

Don's funeral was held at Almondsbury on Wednesday 18th November, where he was described as Engineer, Enthusiastic and Encouraging.

Don is survived by his wife Joan, by a son Simon, and by an extended family. Their daughter Sally died in 2006 and the current set of Almondsbury muffles was donated in her memory.

Ringling Books Available

Tony York has some books and badges available at cost as below. Please contact him if you are interested:

The One per Learner Book (the little yellow book, ideal for learners for logging progress in early stages) - £1 each.

Ringling Circles (gives the blue line and details of what happens at calls for some standard methods) - £3 each.